

## His Highness the Amir

# Kuwait's Visionary Leader

*The name of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah is inextricably linked to that of modern Kuwait and its progressive vision for the future. Even before the country became an independent nation in 1961, His Highness was active in formulating plans and strategies for the country's development.*

Immediately after completing his studies, he joined the country's policy making bodies, first as a member of the Building and Construction Council and then as a member



of the organizational body of the Higher Council. In 1955, he headed the country's Press and Publication Department, which played a lead role in highlighting the then Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah's plans and vision for a modern Kuwait.

On 19 June, 1961, when Kuwait finally emerged as a fully independent nation after more than six decades of being a protectorate of the British Empire, His Highness was right there at the forefront of the leadership in charting the country's future and fortunes.

In 1962, he was appointed as the Minister of Guidance and Information and a year later in January 1963 he was designated the country's foreign minister. His Highness continued to hold the post of foreign minister in all subsequent governments until April 1991, making him then

the longest serving foreign minister not only of Kuwait and the region, but around the world.

The experience and expertise in diplomacy gained by His Highness over a career spanning four decades were to stand the country in good stead during the dark days of the Iraqi occupation in 1990-91. Leveraging his close contacts and interactions with global leaders, His Highness was able to bring the full force of international diplomacy at the United Nations in favor of Kuwait and its righteous stand against the illegal occupation by Iraq.

Over the seven-month period of Iraqi occupation, His Highness' experience as a doyen of diplomacy was brought to the forefront in support of the country's just demands at the United Nations.

He not only managed to skillfully maneuver 12 resolutions through the UN Security Council calling on Iraq to end its unlawful occupation, but also received unanimous support from the world body for resolution 678 that gave Iraq an ultimatum to withdraw all forces from Kuwait by 15 January, 1991.

Following liberation of the country in February 1991, and the return of Kuwait's legitimate government, His Highness continued to work with the UN and friendly countries around the world to stabilize, reconstruct and rehabilitate Kuwait, as well as set up the UN Iraq Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) to monitor the border between the two countries.

In 2003, his 40 years as the country's primary envoy was brought to a close when he was appointed through an Amiri decree as the country's new prime minister.

During his nearly three years as prime minister, His Highness used his influence with world leaders and his standing in the United Nations, to compel Iraq to begin paying reparations for its wanton destruction of Kuwait during its criminal occupation. The Iraqi regime was also obliged to return stolen properties and to ensure the safe return of all Kuwaiti and third country nationals forcefully taken as prisoners from Kuwait.

On 29 January, 2006, His Highness was unanimously proclaimed as Amir of the State of Kuwait. Since becoming the Amir, His Highness has initiated a number of visionary steps designed to lead the country forward on a path of peace and progress. Despite numerous challenges, His Highness has proved on numerous occasions his prowess in handling domestic issues, as well as working to further Kuwait's interests on the regional and international stage.

His Highness' vision for Kuwait and its people is centered on development plans that aim to leverage regional and international opportunities to build the country's economy and the progress of society.

"Development and planning have the first national priority as they are a life necessity and the bases for building and securing the future of our sons and our future generations," said His Highness.

Continued on Page 11

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# Souq Al-Mubarakkiya



would be the Gulf's biggest mural located in the heart of SOMU. Created by the Thouq team as a tribute to Kuwait, the mural stretches across two perpendicular walls.

Standing strong for more than sixty years, the 'Thouq square', where the Thouq concept store is located, still echoes with remnants of a bygone era where locals toiled, engaged in



Following the Iraqi invasion of 1990, the infrastructure of the Souq was heavily damaged. Nonetheless, necessary renovations were made, retaining the traditional elements characteristic of the commercial trade center, whilst also injecting the marketplace with a hint of modernity in the form of light-displays and play areas for children.

Given the warm summers in Kuwait, the way in which the Souq was originally planned and built, served the purpose of providing visitors with plenty of shaded areas. While mornings at the Souq are as fun in their own way, it is when darkness falls that Mubarakkiya comes to life.

### SOMU, The new old souq

Sights, sounds and smells are what you will walk into when you reach South Mubarakkiya (SOMU), the new 'old' district, marked by the previously renovated SOMU Square or Thouq Square.

Located behind the AlFares Mosque, SOMU at first was nothing more than rubble and abandoned stores until visionaries Ahmad Al Ghanim and Bader Al Hejailan decided to give it a new life.

When the original Thouqers first opened their lifestyle, fashion and accessories concept store at the old Mubarakkiya Souq, people assumed it would be a failure. As a concept store, 'Thouq' embodies everything that Bader and Ahmad stand for: an artistic vessel that showcases the finest talents in Kuwait and the region, with new items and concepts arriving on a weekly basis.

Despite what people thought, Al-Mubarakkiya has now become a thriving hub for arts, culture and fashion. An example of art

commerce, and more importantly met with individuals from all parts of the world.

What was once a thriving hub is now something distant to youth due to the presence of modern malls and chic outlets. In order to gain back their interest, Ahmad and Bader took the effort of renovating the Thouq Square and partnered with a group of young individuals. Today, almost all of the spaces around Thouq are booked, and many restaurants along with concept stores are coming up. Most of the new restaurant outlets and cafes have indoor and outdoor seating areas, ensuring that a visit need not be seasonal. This year, the Wireless Mobile Data Company (WiMD) will launch its free Wi-Fi service in Kuwait, starting with Souk Al-Mubarakkiya. The project will help boost sales and attract consumers.



Explore the old and new at the heart of Kuwait

Located in Kuwait City, between Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Abdullah Al-Salem and Palestine Streets, Souq Al-Mubarakkiya is one of the oldest souqs in Kuwait. It was also the center of trade prior to the discovery of oil.

The souq has an unmistakable charm which preserves Kuwait's past beautifully to reflect the country's rich heritage and culture. With old men and women manning their stalls, selling everything from herbs, spices, and apothecary goods, to clothes and accessories, there is nothing one cannot find at a reasonable rate. Explore the markets and enjoy the various sights, sounds and smells as you are transported into ancient Kuwait where life was simpler.

Over 200 years ago, a marketplace was created in the Al-Mubarakkiya area as a platform for vendors to showcase their produce in a non-commercial way. The Souq - market - soon became a cultural hub, catering to the needs of every visitor, whether for the weekly grocery shopping or a simple outing with family or friends.



With Sheikh Mubarak Al Kabeer's Kiosk (a small, separated garden pavilion open on some or all sides) in the center of it all, people were able to openly communicate their hopes and worries to their leader. Soon afterwards, a Diwaniya was born, dubbed as Diwaniyet Al Ra'el Al Awal - The Elders and Founding Fathers' Diwaniya or commune. The Diwaniya became - and still is - a place for the country's elders to meet and discuss everything from social issues to the coming elections.



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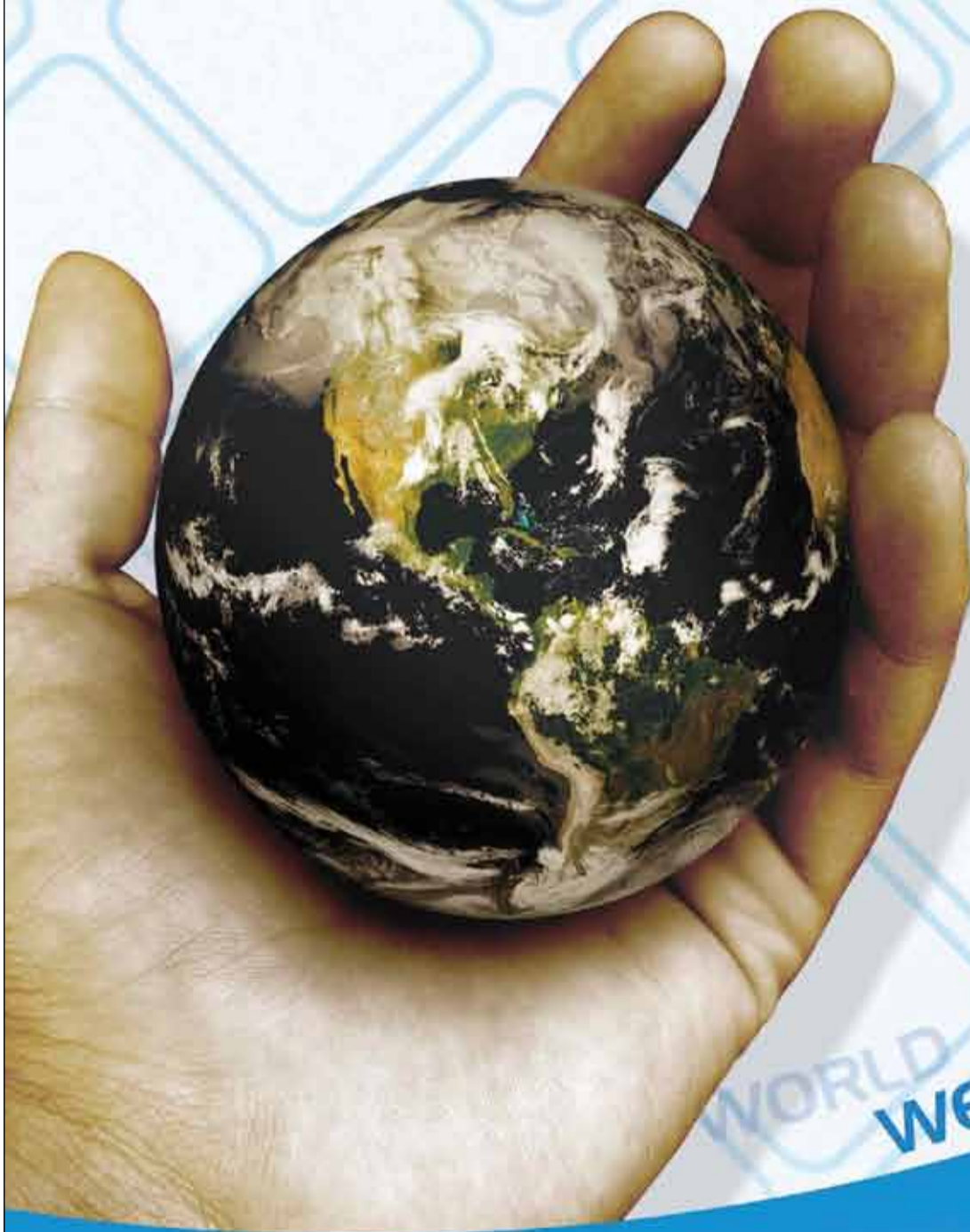
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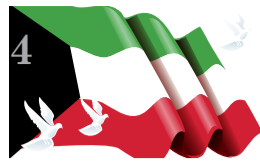
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## Women

# At the forefront of change in Kuwait

*Kuwaiti Women have been an integral part of Kuwait's social fabric, right since the formation of the country and the establishment of its institutions. They helped build many aspects of Kuwaiti culture, from maintaining a close-knit family to passing on cultural traditions, and then participating in social initiatives to cement their rights and presence in the country.*

It was only with the opening of the first private school for girls in 1926, that women began to learn reading and writing. Public schooling began in 1937 and though enrollment of girls was initially low, by 1940s many young Kuwaiti women were enrolled in primary schools.

With the modernization that began following the discovery of oil in the 1930, women in Kuwait experienced many changes to their social status. In the 1950s their access to education and employment increased dramatically and it was often women themselves who pushed for these educational advances and opportunities. In 1956 a group of them rallied for their right to go abroad to study.

With education came a greater awareness



of their role in society and in the late 60s early 70s there were calls and campaigns for women's suffrage. Women frequently took their petition to parliament, which was however always rejected by the male lawmakers.

Over the years, overcoming overwhelming odds, women persisted in their demand to be heard and acknowledged, especially when they proved their capabilities in many fields that were previously male-dominated.

However, the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation was a pivotal moment in bringing about change in the role of women in society. The occupation caused an upheaval in social norms as women were in the forefront helping their Kuwaiti brethren, and being involved in attempts to thwart the activities of the occupying Iraqi army. This period, during which women served valiantly and sacrificed their lives in defense of the country, also served as a catalyst for the eventual liberalization of their political and social rights.

Through hard-hitting activism, Kuwaiti women persevered in the face of overwhelming opposition. In 1993, Nabila Al-Mulla was appointed the first female ambassador in the Gulf region. However, true political equality was not achieved until much later, after a protest was organized in the halls of parliament in 2004, and one year later, one of the largest demonstrations in Kuwait's history was held.

It was the combined efforts of activists, lawyers, politicians, and citizens that propelled women into the political field with the grant of their voting rights on 18 May, 2005. The parliament granted women their voting right by a simple amendment that removed the word 'men' from Article 1 of the election-law.

For the first time in Kuwait's history, women were able to apply their names as candidates in the snap elections that were called for in 2006. Though 32 women ran for parliament in this election, and again in the 2008 elections, though there were 27 women in a pool of 275 candidates, none managed to secure a seat.

It was the historic elections held in 2009 that finally saw women gain representation in parliament with four women — Massouma Al Mubarak, Aseel Al Awadhi, Rola Dashti, and

Salwa Al Jassar — being elected to parliament.

These four women will forever be honored in Kuwait's history for their contribution in creating a path for the future generation of women to follow. Dr. Mubarak also had the distinction of being the first Kuwaiti woman to serve as a cabinet minister. The women MPs made substantial forward strides in parliament, drafting many new labor laws, including those that stipulated regulations on working conditions and workers' rights, especially those for women.



“It was the combined efforts of activists, lawyers, politicians, and citizens that propelled women into the political field with the grant of their voting rights on 18 May, 2005.”

From having no legal rights and forbidden from voting, to becoming a mainstay in the parliament and occupying many high level positions in various institutions, Kuwaiti women have traveled far.

Today, women in Kuwait have a far more secure position, with many laws being enforced to uphold their rights and dignity. And any form of discrimination is deemed unconstitutional and challenged in the courts. Kuwaiti women have also received accolades in the country and abroad for their work in social activism and for their success in various fields.



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## KUWAIT FUND

# A force for development within and beyond borders

*Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which was established in December 1961, just a few months following the country independence, was created with the sincere desire to provide monetary and technical assistance to Arab states to support their efforts to achieve economic and social development, and to promote cooperation and friendship between Kuwait and these countries. In July 1974 the Fund was reorganized and its mandate was expanded to include the provision of providing assistance to developing countries in general, in addition to Arab countries, and thereby promote the role of Kuwait in the international community.*



Since its inception, the object of the Fund has been to assist countries through loans, guarantees and grants, as well as providing technical assistance for development projects in

various sectors, including primarily in agriculture and irrigation, transport and communication, energy, industry, water and sewage. The Fund has also contributed to capital stocks of international and regional development finance institutions and other development institutions and represented the State of Kuwait in such institutions.

Presenting the 54th Annual Report of the development operations of the Fund for the fiscal year 2015/16 that ended on 31 March, 2016, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Fund, H.E. Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, reiterated that the Fund had continued its objective of assisting developing nations in their efforts to achieve their development goals and further improve the standard of living of their people and societies.

The report shows that from its establishment in 1961 to the end of fiscal year 2015/ 2016, the Fund had extended 911 loans with a total value of KD5.6 billion. During this period, the Fund's loans, grants and technical assistance had benefitted a total of 105 countries, including 16 Arab countries, 41 African countries, 19 East, South Asian and Pacific Countries, 17 Central Asian and European countries, and 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In addition, the Fund provided grants and technical assistance with a value of about KD94 million to finance various activities, including

“ Since its inception, the object of the Fund has been to assist countries through loans, guarantees and grants, as well as providing technical assistance for development projects in various sectors. ”

around KD61 million for the reconstruction of areas in The Gaza Strip and about KD30 million in support of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. The Fund also continued the implementation of His Highness the Amir's directive to the Fund, at the Third Arab Summit in 2013, to provide concessional loans to an amount of US\$1 billion to finance development projects in African countries over five years.

However, the Fund is not all about just providing loans, grants and technical assistance to support development in other countries; it also has an internal component that aims to further development within the country. To further this aim, the Fund has over the years remained committed to developing human resources in the country, based on the belief that such assets form the linchpin of Kuwait's future growth and

development. In this regard, in 2004, the Fund launched a program to train newly graduated Kuwaiti engineers and architects in order to prepare them to work in the private sector. The program has been implemented in three stages. The first stage aims to strengthen the basic skills of graduates through a number of intensive lectures and workshops for a period of three months. The second stage involves practical training, during which the trainees join international companies to enhance their awareness of modern engineering ways and to provide them with experience through giving them assignments over a period of 6 months outside Kuwait. The third stage is centered on field training, during which the trainee joins Kuwaiti Companies to apply the skills acquired during the previous two stages through a number of responsibilities delegated to him. So far over 22 groups have undergone training under the program.

On another front, the Fund has been active in attempting to solve the country's housing shortage by issuing bonds to the tune of KD100 million every year for five years in favor the Credit Bank of Kuwait and setting aside 25 percent of the Fund's profits every year for infrastructure projects in the country.

The Fund also supports and encourages the private sector in the country by giving preference to Kuwaiti companies in the execution of projects financed by it. In addition, the Fund encourages Kuwaiti and foreign companies associated with it to use local materials and products, as well as obliging Kuwaiti companies to use the national banking and financial services. The Fund also obtains the agreement of borrowing countries to use Kuwaiti financial institutions and services. In this regard it is worth noting that since the Fund's establishment until December 2009, more than 200 projects worth over KD280 million were executed by 314 Kuwaiti companies and the foreign firms associated with them

In another related sphere, and within the framework of supporting the Government's policy of achieving comprehensive development of the country, the Fund financed, managed and



prepared the studies related to building a new port in Bobyan Island to the north of Kuwait. The comprehensive development plan for the port incorporates a free-trade zone, a storage area and an industrial town that are expected to stimulate economic and social activities on this strategic island, which occupies nearly five percent of Kuwait's total area. Bobyan Port will also be instrumental in pushing forward Kuwait's vision to be a transport, commercial and financial hub for effective economic activities in the area.

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# Kuwait Diplomatic missions commemorate National and Liberation Days

*Kuwait's diplomatic missions around the globe started commemorating the country's 56th Independence Day, the 26th Liberation Day and the 11th anniversary of the assumption of office by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.*

The Embassy in Valetta, the capital city of Malta, hosted on Monday night a reception where President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca led large number of well-wishers, including the Foreign Minister George William Vella and former prime minister Lawrence Gonzi.

The celebration gathered dozens of Maltese senior officials, economic leaders, and cultural and media celebrities, as well as foreign diplomats based in Valetta, according to a statement by the embassy.

Addressing the ceremony, President Preca congratulated His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the Kuwaiti people and government.

She said the Maltese government is looking forward to opening new horizons for the fruitful cooperation with Kuwait in all domains capitalizing on the exemplary political ties.

The diplomatic ties, dating back to 1972, kept guiding the growth of relations in such areas as economy, investment, tourism and culture, she said. President Preca appreciated the active role of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in supporting the economic development in her country over the last decades.

She voiced hope that the recent launching by the



Malta Stock Exchange of an index for the Islamic Sharia-abiding stocks would attract more foreign investment and help Malta serve as a link between Europe, on one hand and the Middle East and North Africa region, on the other.

Kuwait Ambassador Faisal Motlaq Al-Adwan expressed, in a speech to the gathering, his best regards to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people on this occasion.

He thanked President Preca for her attendance, which signaled the depth of friendship between the two countries.

Ambassador Al-Adwan voiced hope for even closer cooperation in all fields to serve the interests of both countries.

On the fringes of the celebration, the embassy held an exhibition of books, photographs, documents and costumes, which portrayed the history and the socio-economic development of Kuwait. In Jeddah, Kuwait's Consul General and

Permanent Delegate to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Wa'el Youssef Al-Anzi hosted a reception at Park Hyatt Jeddah hotel to mark the national days.

The celebration gathered Prince Fahad bin Muqren bin Abdul-Aziz and senior Saudi officials and public figures as well as foreign diplomats and business leaders residing in Jeddah.

Al-Anzi expressed, in statements to KUNA, his best wishes for His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as the Kuwaiti people on this occasion. He lauded the historical ties between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, saying that these ties are growing constantly thanks to the wisdom of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Amir and King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud.

He recalled the noble stance of Saudi Arabian leadership and people in supporting the State of

Kuwait against the Iraqi invasion in 1990.

Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Salah Al-Ba'ijan hosted on Tuesday a reception at Fairmont Bab Al Bahr Abu Dhabi hotel which gathered UAE Presidential Advisor Dr. Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, and Minister of State for Tolerance Affairs Sheikh Lubna bint Khaled Al-Qasimi, as well as senior officials public figures and foreign diplomats. Ambassador Al-Ba'ijan expressed best wishes for His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as the Kuwaiti people on this occasion.

He appreciated as great the efforts being made by His Highness the Amir to augment the Arab unity, restore stability in the region and promote humanitarian action around the globe.

He praised the deep-rooted relations with the UAE, saying they kept growing in all domains thanks to the wise leaderships of both countries.

The ceremony featured singing and folklore performances and traditional handcraft show.

The Embassy in Rabat hosted on Tuesday a reception where Director-General of the Arabic Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) Adel Al-Saqr led dozens of well-wishers from the Kingdom of Morocco and other friendly countries. Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of the celebration, Al-Saqr voiced joy for joining the Kuwaitis in celebrating this dear occasion "which has great political, historical and cultural significance." He expressed best wishes for His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as the Kuwaiti people.

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**National Day  
& Liberation Day Greetings**

**To the visionary rulers and people  
of this great country on the occasion  
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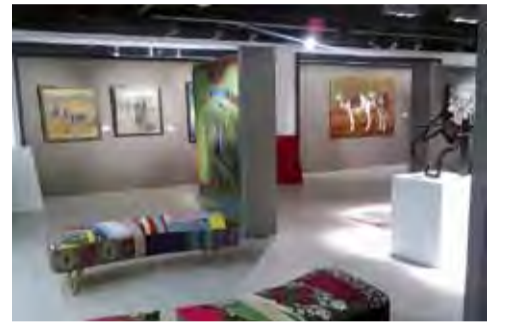
# Art Galleries

## Kuwait's stunning contemporary



A large number of contemporary art galleries focused on promoting local Kuwaiti artists have cropped up around Kuwait in recent years. With plenty of successful local artists eager to showcase their creative expression and a receptive audience of both local and expatriate art lovers, the country's art scene is thriving. Local galleries are the usual meeting spot for artists and art lovers who gather there to enjoy the best creative works and inspiring exhibitions presented by local, regional and international artists. Here are some of the best contemporary art galleries and museums in Kuwait City.

**AL M Gallery:** Displaying the works of established Kuwaiti, Middle Eastern and international artists, exhibitions at the AL M Gallery have included works by Iraqi painter Ghassan Muhsin, local Kuwaiti painter Jassem Bu Hamad and lover of vibrant colours Afaf Al Essa. The AL M Gallery is located in the affluent Salhia Complex, right in the centre of the city. With a focus on the fine arts, the majority of the gallery's exhibitions concentrate on painting as the primary medium with contemporary culture as the main subject area.



Location: Salhia Complex, Gate 4, Mezanine 2, Place 16. Call 229 96447

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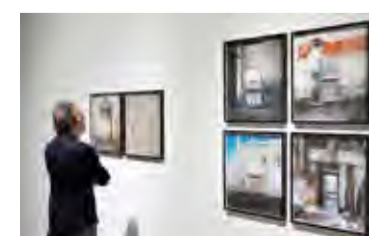
**Dar Al Funoon**  
Gallery

Since its inception in 1994, Dar Al Funoon has established itself as supporter of Middle Eastern art which remains dynamic, fascinating and sought after in the art world. The gallery's aim is to promote the work of contemporary artists from the region and inspire the art enthusiasts and art lovers to gain awareness of this emerging art. Location: Behbenani Compound, House 28, Al Watiah, Kuwait City. Call 2244 33138

**Boushahri Gallery:** The brainchild of Jawad Boushahri, the Chairman of Boushahri Group as well as one of Kuwait's renowned sculptors and supporters of arts, the celebrated Boushahri Gallery was established in Kuwait in 1982. As one of the oldest private art galleries in the Middle Eastern region, Boushahri Gallery has opened multiple avenues for rising local and internationally acclaimed artists alike, all of whom have enjoyed the continued success the Gallery has provided them with. Art lovers constantly flock to the gallery's doors where artistic brilliance is put on display including exquisite paintings, sculptures, ceramic arts, photographs and many more artistic works. With an aim to enrich fellow artists in Kuwait, Boushahri broadened his gallery services to include educational courses, informative seminars and insightful lectures. Today, the gallery holds a variety of activities to increase artists' drive and spirit to practice, perfect and pursue their artistic aspirations such as holding creative competitions for budding talents.



Location: Building 36, Bagdad Street, Salmiya. Call 2562 1119



**Sultan Gallery:** For over forty years, the Sultan Gallery has played an important role in introducing Arab artists to broader audiences, and helped establish a vital dialogue among artists and institutions working internationally. The Sultan Gallery was initially founded in 1969 by the late siblings, Ghazi and Najat Sultan. Up until 1990 it operated

thoroughly as a convergence point for not only artists and intellectuals exploring polemic issues on Arab society, but also the general public.



Upon reopening its doors to the public in 2006, Director of the space, Farida Sultan, has continued working avidly with a wide range of artists to advance a critical art discourse emerging in the country. Sultan Gallery, now situated in Sabhan under the umbrella of Sadeer General Trading & Contracting Company, along the skirts of many government subsidized factories, is within a renovated warehouse that encompasses 320 square-meters of exhibition space. **Location: South Subhan, Block 8, Street 105, Building 168. Call 247 14325**

**FA Gallery:** This gallery aims to create a fashion identity for Kuwait in its blending together of art and fashion. Alongside



paintings, sculptures and photographs, the FA Gallery exhibits exclusive fashion collections for both men and women including pieces by Pepa Pombo, Bendita Seas and Maria Garcia. The designers exhibited are from all around the globe, but the gallery focuses mainly on Colombian and Brazilian artists. Set inside a historical house, FA claims itself to be a 'cultural centre' with a unique atmosphere.

**Location: Sharq, Block 2, Gulf Road, Villa 76, Kuwait City, Kuwait. Call 2249 8999**

**House of Mirrors:** Also known as the Khalifa and Lidia Qattan Art Museum, the House of Mirrors or Mirror House is the residence of Artists Khalifa Qattan and his wife Lidia Qattan. Lidia al-Qattan created her mosaic home from 77 tons of mirrored glass, not missing an inch of the exterior or interior. Each



room has its own theme, complete with light shows and music, ranging from the universe, to the cosmos, to sharks, each one even more dazzling than the last. The two-hour tour begins with homemade ginger or cinnamon tea, apple cake and a chat with Lidia about Kuwait's history and how and why she created this masterpiece. There is also a gallery of her late husband's work and a gift-shop where visitors can purchase their own mini mirrored-mosaic masterpiece.

**Location: House 17, Block 9, Street 94, Qadisiya. Call 2251 8522**



**Tareq Rajab Museum:** Opened by the late Tareq Sayed and his wife, the Tareq Rajab Museum is home to a collection of over 30,000 artistic items, 10,000 of which are constantly on display. Sayed was the first Kuwaiti to ever be sent abroad to study art and, after marriage, he and his wife travelled the Islamic world collecting enough items to open up their own museum back in Kuwait. Despite a



strong focus on calligraphy and old scripts, the museum also hosts an abundance of ceramics, costumes, glass, jewellery and metalworks from across the Islamic world on display.

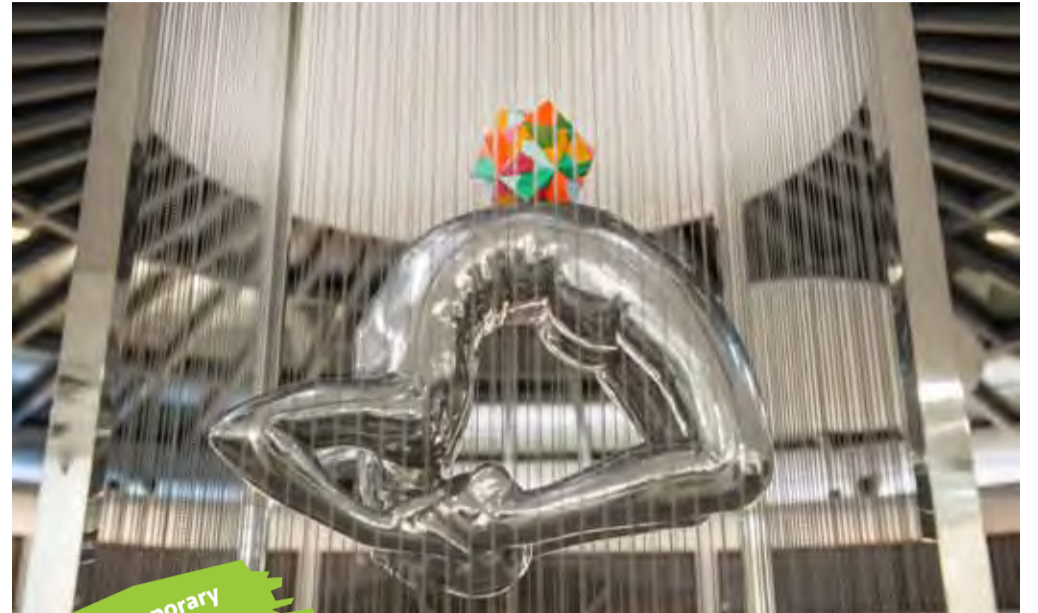
**Location: Jabria, Area 12, Street 5. Call 2531 7358**

**Ghadir Gallery:** Presenting the many works of acclaimed Kuwaiti artist Thuraya al Baqsami, the Ghadir Gallery gives visitors the unique opportunity to meet and chat to the artist whilst admiring their pieces of art. As one



of the country's most accomplished artists, Thuraya al Baqsami has been featured in over 100 exhibitions around the globe with her vibrantly coloured paintings becoming increasingly more popular.

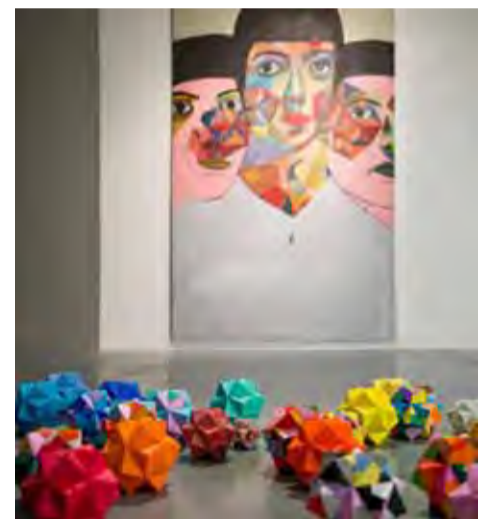
**Location: Mishref, Block 6, Street 5, Villa 40. Call 243 5101**



Contemporary Art Platform

As Kuwait's arts scene expands, different venues pop up to accommodate various artistic themes. Contemporary Art Platform, affectionately known as CAP within the community, has proven itself a valuable hub for hosting various gallery openings, exhibitions, lectures and film screenings, all tying into the contemporary arts. Keep a close eye on this initiative as they constantly have events for you to enjoy.

**Location: 2nd Floor, Life Center, Industrial Shuwaikh Block 2, Street 28, Kuwait City. Call 249 25636**





Heartiest felicitations and Warm wishes to  
**H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**  
 Amir of the State of Kuwait  
**H.H. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**  
 Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait  
**H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah**  
 Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait  
 to the Government and Citizens of Kuwait  
 on the occasion of  
**Kuwait's National Day and Liberation Day**





<p><b>Restaurants:</b></p> <p>Salmiya Tel: 25733044                  Jahra Tel: 24577320/8                  Satchi (Fahaheel) Tel: 23912137                  Central Kitchen Tel: 24754573, 24754584                  Shakahari Tel: 25665754</p>	<p>City (Chinese) Tel: 22431100                  Satchi (City) Tel: 22476591                  Dakshin Jleeb Tel: 24319191                  Cinnamon Farwaniya Tel: 24728899                  Egaila Tel: 22271278                  Caesars XPRESS (Sabah Al Salem) Tel: 25523065</p>	<p>Fahaheel Tel: 23920343                  Indian Tel: 22411711                  Farwaniya Tel: 24738777                  Hawally Tel: 22616191/2                  Al Salam Mall Tel: 22250089</p>
<p><b>Confectioneries:</b></p>		
<p>City: 22411407                  Fahaheel: 23910445                  Rawda: 22550908                  Jleeb Al Shuyoukh: 24318423</p>	<p>Qurtoba: 25323650                  Jahra: 24554599                  Hawally: 22616195                  Mishref: 25395245</p>	<p>Qurain: 25423577                  Surra: 25322841                  Salmiya 2: 25642296                  Qadisiya: 22549559</p>
<p><b>Catering:</b>                  24754584, 22450504 Ext. 216/221</p>		<p><b>Home Delivery:</b>                  1832211</p>
<p><b>Head Office</b>                  Mabane Building 1, 2nd Floor, Block 1, Ali Al Salem Street, Salhia (P.O. Box 5592, Safat 13056), Kuwait                  Tel: 22450504, Fax: 22421361</p>		



H.H. The Prime Minister  
Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak  
Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



H.H. The Amir of the State of Kuwait  
Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad  
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



H.H. The Crown Prince  
Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad  
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

*Heartiest Greetings*  
*to the Government and the*  
*people of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait's*  
*National Day & Liberation Day*



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## Kuwait National Day celebrated in New Delhi with great fervor

**SAH Rizvi**

Special to The Times

Reflecting the ever growing ties between the two countries, Kuwait National Day was celebrated in the Indian capital of New Delhi amidst traditional gaiety and fervor. The celebration was attended by the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar

On his arrival the Minister was received by Kuwait's Ambassador Fahad Ahmad Al-Awadhi and escorted to the podium. The national anthems of both countries were played on the occasion. Minister Akbar said he was happy to participate in the event marking the 56th Anniversary of the National Day and the 26th Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the friendly nation of Kuwait. The ceremony saw participation of a large gathering consisting of government officials, parliamentarians, and an elite group of dignitaries working in cultural, academic, media and religious fields, in addition to a number of ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps.

Ambassador Al-Awadhi, his wife Tasneem



Al-Abduljader and the diplomats in the embassy exchanged warm greetings with the participants.

In an exclusive interview with Times Kuwait on the eve of the National Day celebrations,

significant imports and exports of crude oil and other commodities. Up to 10 percent of Indian oil demand is supplied by Kuwait, he noted. The Ambassador said that visit of Indian Minister of State General V.K. Singh (Retd) last year has given a further boost to the relation and "I expect more such visits in the future."

He added that investments from Kuwait have great potential and should be encouraged in future and "it is a good step forward for the oil and gas industries as their demands are always on the rise." "India is emerging as a strong economic force and valuable market and Kuwait could play a significant role in this direction. There are so many areas to work up so that we can increase the trade component to a higher level."

Our relationship exists on mutual trust that has developed over the years and we have to take it forward," the ambassador said.

"The India Kuwait joint commission would meet soon, we are working on the dates and modalities and I am sure we will make significant gains," ambassador pointed out. "The last visit of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait in 2006 and followed by the visit of Kuwait's prime minister had not only set the agenda but the momentum for the growth," the ambassador stated.

Al-Awadhi congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as government and people of Kuwait on the National and Liberation Day celebrations

## Kuwait Diplomatic missions commemorate National and Liberation Days

Continued from Page 7

Al-Saqr extolled His Highness the Amir for his leading role in promoting the humanitarian efforts, the Arab joint action and supporting the activities of regional organizations, notably the AIDMO. Kuwaiti embassies and diplomatic missions in Europe and elsewhere around the world continued to celebrate Kuwait's 56th National Day, 26th Liberation Anniversary, and 11th occasion of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's rule of the country.

In Poland, the Kuwaiti embassy held a reception to celebrate Kuwait's national occasions with the event being attended by Arab and Foreign diplomats.

Speaking during the event, Kuwait's Ambassador Abdullah Khaled Al-Askar took the chance to congratulate Kuwait's leadership and people on the advent of the country's national celebrations, wishing the best to his beloved country Kuwait.

Meanwhile, a similar celebration was held in the Kuwaiti embassy in Budapest, Hungary. The Ambassador of Kuwait Dr. Hamad Burhama welcomed those partaking in his country's celebration this year, saying that it was reflective of the world's sincere attitude towards Kuwait.

The Ambassador also took the chance to congratulate the Kuwaiti leadership and people on the return of Kuwait's national celebrations.

## His Highness the Amir

Continued from Page 1

In order to realize this vision and make Kuwait a regional center for commerce and finance, the government has been mandated to build necessary infrastructure through a mega-development plan and open up the economy by introducing necessary changes to policies and laws so as to facilitate businesses and entrepreneurship, as well as encourage foreign investments into the country.

On the international arena, His Highness was instrumental in further cementing Kuwait's friendly relations with world nations. Among other cooperation and collaborations that he has initiated and played a vital role in founding, is the Common Ministerial Council for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and the European Union, which aims to consolidate and maximize economic ties between the two blocs.

His Highness, who has been a strong advocate of the importance and power of Arab unity, has often used the respect and trust he has gained over the years, to mediate and bring about reconciliation in Arab and regional conflicts.

He has consistently called for ending the Syrian conflict through diplomatic efforts that take into consideration the interests of all parties involved in the conflict. Most recently, His Highness was influential in bringing the warring factions in the Yemeni conflict for peace talks in Kuwait and for getting both sides to see that the conflict could only be resolved through dialogue and discussions.

Taking into consideration the suffering of the Syrian people who have been stranded in their own country and in neighboring countries due to the ongoing conflict, His Highness initiated and hosted three Syrian donors' conferences in Kuwait

and attended the fourth pledging conference in London in 2016. At these four conferences, the world witnessed the generosity of Kuwait when His Highness pledged billion of dollars in humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of Syrian refugees around the world.

Since His Highness assumed power in 2006, Kuwait's humanitarian aid to the world has soared with aid and relief supplies reaching almost all corners of the world devastated by natural and man-made catastrophes.

His Highness' credentials as a humanitarian leader and Kuwait's generosity in providing assistance to those in need around the world were further burnished in 2014, when the then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced that Kuwait has turned into "an international humanitarian center" and its Amir is the "humanitarian leader".

Delivering his statement on the occasion of being felicitated by the United Nations for his role in and support of international humanitarian work, in New York on September 2014, H.H. the Amir expressed, "appreciation for the gracious and unprecedented gesture towards the people and government of my country Kuwait, and towards me personally."

He pointed out that since gaining its independence and consequent membership in the UN, the State of Kuwait has followed a steady approach in its foreign policy, based essentially on providing humanitarian assistance to all needy countries, regardless of their geographic location, religious beliefs or ethnic origins.

In conclusion, His Highness said, "I also would like to renew the commitment of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations and its noble message of the preservation of international peace and security, the dissemination of the principals of justice and equality, and ensuring a life of dignity and welfare to the peoples of the world."

Heartiest Greetings  
to all residents of Kuwait on the Occasion of  
**National Day & Liberation Day**

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